

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02

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P 232137Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6696

INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

S E C R E T SAN SALVADOR 4245

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT MOLINA'S VIEW OF HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR

NEGOTIATIONS

1. PRESIDENT MOLINA INVITED ME, DCM, DEFATT AND MILGP CHIEF FOR LUNCHEON AT CASA PRESIDENCIAL ON OCT 22. HE BROUGHT MOD ROMERO, HIS UNDERSECRETARY CASTILLO YANES AND ARMED FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF, AND SPECIAL AND PRIVATE SECRETARIES TO THE PRESIDENT (BOTH MILITARY OFFICERS). IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION RANGING OVER MANY SUBJECTS, PRESIDENT DESCRIBED HIS THOUGHTS RE PRESENT SITUATION IN HONDURAS AND ITS EFFECT ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM SUBSTANCE HIS COMMENTS THAT HE DID NOT HAVE MUCH INFORMATION BEYOND WHAT IN PRESS AND THAT PASSED BY US. HE DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE FORMED OPINION AS TO WHAT REALLY OCCURING IN GOH.

2. PRESIDENT MOLINA DID OFFER SVERAL THOUGHTS THAT I HAD NOT HEARD HIM EXPRESS BEFORE. FIRST HE TOLD US THAT HE CONSIDERS IT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT BOTH COUNTRIES GET CRACKING IN SEEKING RESOLUTION OF BILATERAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID HIS ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVE SOLUTION DURING ITS
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TENURE. THIS DIFFERS IN DEGREE OF URGENCY FROM PREVIOUS

STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE STRESSED THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION WAS COMMITTED TO MERELY STARTING THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION. SECOND, PRESIDENT MOLINA SAID THAT SHOULD THERE BE NO PROSPECT FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS HE THINKS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RENEWED MOMENTUM MIGHT BE ACHIEVED AT DEC 1 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IN MANAGUA, TO WHICH SOMOZA HAS INVITED ALL CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE. MOLINA SAID HE HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION QTE IN PRINCIPAL UNQTE AND HE BELIEVES GUAT#

P JLKOS HAS DONE LIKEWISE. MOLINA TOLD ME HE FEELS THIS MIGHT PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS PEERS AND, HOPEFULLY, SOME FORWARD MOTION.

3. BOTH MOLINA AND ROMERO STRESSED THAT ALL IS QUIET AND NORMAL ALONG BORDER SINCE HONDURAN CABINET CRISIS. LIAISON BETWEEN LOCAL AND GOH MILITARY COMMANDS CONTINUES AS BEFORE.

4. PRESIDENT ENDED SUBJECT BY THANKING ME FOR "USEFUL ROE" USG HAD PLAYED FOR SOME TIME AS CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO PARTIES, AND ENCOURAGING CONTINUED PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. CAMPBELL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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